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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/403,861	02/11/2000	CARLO RICCARDI	RICCARDI=1	7791
7590	03/11/2004		EXAMINER	
BROWDY AND NEIMARK 624 NINTH STREET WASHINGTON, DC 20004				EPPS FORD, JANET L
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1635		

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/403,861	RICCARDI, CARLO
Examiner	Art Unit	
Janet L. Epps-Ford, Ph.D.	1635	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 11 February 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires 5 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) ____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

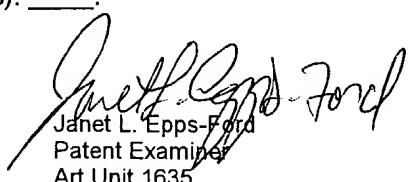
Claim(s) rejected: 41-48 would remain rejected for the reasons of record.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. The drawing correction filed on ____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.

10. Other: See Continuation Sheet


Janet L. Epps-Ford
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1635

Continuation of 2. NOTE: Applicants have amended the instant claims to encompass GILR proteins capable of inhibiting apoptosis and stimulating lymphocyte activity, wherein said proteins comprise no more than ten amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said changes are alternative conservative substitutions as defined by Table B. This amendment raises new issues under 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph since the instant claims read on an exponential number of proteins having the cited structure, however apart from trial and error experimentation *de novo* experimentation, there is no particular guidance to instruct the skilled artisan how to pick and chose which of these proteins would function to inhibit apoptosis and stimulate lymphocyte activity. Although Figure 15 shows an alignment between the mouse and human GILR proteins, wherein the two proteins differ at 11 positions, it is noted that the instant claims are not limited to wherein said changes occur at the 11 differential positions between the mouse and the human GILR proteins as indicated by Figure 15.

Additionally, it is noted that applicant's reference to Table B raises an objection under MPEP § 2173.05(s) which states "Where possible, claims are to be complete in themselves. Incorporation by reference to a specific figure or table is permitted only in exceptional circumstances where there is no practical way to define the invention in words and where it is more concise to incorporate by reference than duplicating a drawing or table into the claim. Incorporation by reference is a necessity doctrine, not for applicant's convenience."

Continuation of 10. Other: Applicant's arguments filed 2-11-04 are directed to the claims as amended. Since the amendment of 2-11-04 has not been entered, Applicant's arguments are considered moot.